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LETTER DATED 5 MARCH 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On behalf of the European Union, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a declaration of the Presidency of the European Union on former Yugoslavia, issued on 26 February 1996.

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) F. Paolo FULCI

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Declaration by the European Union on former Yugoslavia

The European Union warmly welcomes the results of the compliance conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina held on 17 and 18 February in Rome. It expresses its satisfaction at the renewed commitment of the parties to respect fully their obligations as regards both the military and the civilian aspects of the peace process. It welcomes the support given by the parties concerned to the Rome statement on Sarajevo, as well as the agreement reached on the speedy implementation of the Croat-Muslim Federation and the joint statement of President Tudjman and President Milosevic on the normalization of relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Union expects all the parties to give full and prompt effect to the commitments they have undertaken. It recalls its often stated position, notably as regards the criteria of conditionality for the granting of reconstruction assistance and longer term measures, as well as for the definition of future agreements with the countries of the area. In the event of non-compliance by any of the parties with their commitments in the peace agreement or undertakings at the Rome summit, the European Union, in consultation with the international community, will consider taking specific measures in response.

The Union calls in particular upon the Bosnian Serb side to continue full contacts and cooperation with the Implementation Force (IFOR) and the High Representative and to ensure its participation in all joint commissions, as well as in the Vienna negotiations on subregional arms control.

Concerning Sarajevo, the Union expresses its full support for the efforts of the High Representative aimed to promote reconciliation and to preserve the multiethnic character of the city. It deplores the exodus and the pressure that led to it and expects the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serb authorities to take all necessary steps to increase confidence so as to induce the Serb citizens of Sarajevo to remain in the Bosnian capital in order to participate in the process of reconciliation and reconstruction.

The European Union expresses particular satisfaction with the Rome agreement on Mostar of 18 February. This agreement opens the way to the full achievement of the objectives of the European Administration, to which the Union remains strongly dedicated. The Union welcomes the implementation of those provisions related to the initial deployment of the unified police force and the entering into force of the freedom of movement. The Union calls upon the parties to abide also by all the other obligations arising from the Rome agreement and to respect fully all the decisions of the European Union Administrator, to whom it confirms its strong support, and to guarantee fully his security. The European Union asks the European Union Administrator to continue his activities aiming at achieving the objectives set out in the Washington and Rome agreements, in particular, the holding of democratic elections in May.

The Council has with regret taken note of Mr. Koschnick's resignation from his office as European Union Administrator and welcomes his agreement to stay on until a successor has been nominated.

Compliance with the Rome agreements will be considered an essential element in the definition of the Union's future relations with each of the parties concerned. The European Union takes note of the request of the parties to prolong for six months the mandate of the European Union Administration. It will consider such a request in due course, not least in the light of the behaviour of the parties towards the implementation of the Washington and Rome agreements and the achievement of the objectives of the European Union Administration.